[*Translation*]

LPG connection priority to Members

1132. SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are extending the facility of priority quota of LPG connections for 1991 to the Members of the Tenth Lok Sabha who were also the Members in the Ninth Lok Sabha:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not allotting gas connections on the recommendations of such members of the Tenth Lok Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The Members of 10th Lok Sabha, who were also members of 9th Lok Sabha will be given 48 connections minus the connections availed by them as a member of 9th Lok Sabha. This will be restricted to 12 connections per quarter per MP.

[*English*]

Profit of ONGC

1133. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a declining trend in the profit earning by ONGC due to shortfall in production and rising operation costs;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review the working of ONGC; and

(c) the details of the recommendations of the Working Group of Planning Commission for improving the production and profit of ONGC?

THE MINSTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b): The Profit after tax of ONGC in 1990-91 was Rs. 1048 crores against Rs. 1624 crores in 1989-90. The reduction in profit was mainly on account of higher exchange loss, cost of dry wells written off, depreciation/depletion and operational expenditure. Working of ONGC is reviewed on a continuous basis.

(c) Planning Commission has not formed any working Group for this propose.

Quality control cell for coal

1134. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a quality control cell to ensure quality coal to the consumers;

(b) if so, by what time the decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government also propose to invite private sector for setting up of coal washeries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B.NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Coal India Ltd. already has independent Quality Control cells functioning in all its subsidiaries, who closely supervise and monitor quality of coal supplies . These cells are being further strengthened by CIL.

(c) and (d) No proposal to invite private sector for setting up coal washeries is under the consideration of the Government as on date.

Import of Petroleum products by Indian Oil Corporation

1135. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation